

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

29 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

ATTENTION:

25X1A9a

SUBJECT: Payment of Automobile Transportation Charges

1. In regard to the 19 instances of reimbursement of transportation charges which have been made on vehicles purchased by employees outside the United States, as evidenced by the Comptroller's memorandum of 13 September 1954, you have posed the following questions: (a) what action, if any, should the Agency take with respect to the payments evidenced by the listings attached to the Comptroller's memorandum; (b) whether it is possible from an examination of the supporting invoices to determine which payments should be allowed and which payments should be suspended, and; (c) whether it is possible to devise a method of complying with the evident requirement of the General Accounting Office with respect to the use of Government bills of lading in the shipment of the personally-owned automobiles in instances where an individual's cover precludes the use of the Government B/L.

2. With respect to the first question, you may wish to have photostats of the individual bills of sale submitted for use as an aid in determining where the individuals received their titles, or in the alternative, you may wish to allow the payments as made because it is felt that any attempt to develop now the necessary facts surrounding these transactions might prejudice security and in addition have a deleterious effect on employee morale, in view of the fact that they were apparently unaware of the passage-of-title rule and the supporting documentation normally required.

3. While we have examined the supporting invoices as requested, it is our opinion that they do not lend themselves to a firm conclusion as to where title passed to the named employees.

4. In regard to those instances where an employee's cover precludes the use of a Government bill of lading, we believe that it would be in order for the Agency to authorize the use of a commercial bill of lading on a reimbursable basis and thus spare the employee the pecuniary loss which he would otherwise sustain.

5. The file is returned.

OGC/RJB:afb

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - chrono 1 - subject

1 - signer

25X1A9a

Office of General Counsel